

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/3



The Water Babies

Since becoming a water baby, Tom, the little chimney sweep, had been so naughty and greedy that he became covered in prickles. To get rid of them he decides to do a kind deed and find his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes, who has gone to the Other-end-of-Nowhere . . .



1. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did told Tom what to do. "You must go farther than the world's end, Tom," she said. "You must go to the Shiny Wall and then to Mother Carey's Haven, where the good whales go when they die. There, Mother Carey will tell you the way to the Other-end-of-Nowhere and there you will find Mr. Grimes." "Oh dear," said Tom, "but I do not know my way to the Shiny Wall." "You must ask all the beasts in the sea and all the birds in the air," said the fairy, as Tom set off.

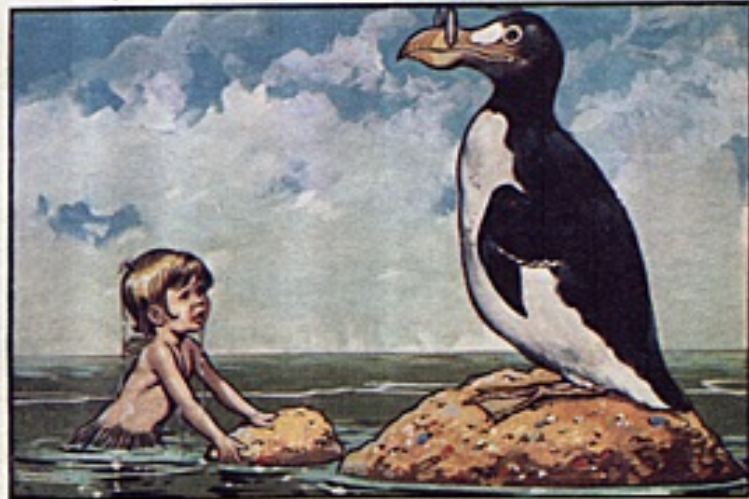


2. On his way, Tom asked all the birds of the air and the beasts in the sea, but none of them knew the way to the Shiny Wall. For why? He was still too far down South. Then he met a ship, far larger than he had ever seen—a gallant ocean steamer with a long cloud of smoke trailing behind. A school of dolphins were running races round and round her, and Tom spoke to them, too.

3. He asked them the way to the Shiny Wall, but they did not know. Tom looked up at the sailors and people on the decks of the ship and he called out to them—but they did not answer, because they could not see him. Only a few special people can see water babies even when they are there. When he got no answer Tom turned away, sad and wondering, and swam towards the North.



4. Tom continued to swim northwards, day after day, till at last he met the King of the Herrings. Tom asked him the way to the Shiny Wall and the King of the Herrings said in reply: "If I were you, young sir, I would go to the All-alone-stone and ask the Gairfowl. She knows a good deal about everything." Tom asked his way to her and the King of the Herrings told him very kindly.



5. Away went Tom for seven days and seven nights, until he came to a small piece of rock that stuck up on its own out of the huge ocean. It was the All-alone-stone and on it sat the Gairfowl, all alone. A very grand old lady she was, very much like a penguin. "Shiny Wall?" she squawked. "Oh dear, my poor old brains are getting quite puzzled. You'd better ask the birds."



6. Then a flock of petrels came along and they are Mother Carey's own chickens. They flitted along like a flock of black swallows, hopping and skipping from wave to wave. Tom called to them and asked the way to the Shiny Wall. "Shiny Wall? Come with us and we will show you," they said.



7. Tom was delighted and he swam after the petrels. "First of all we must go to Allfowlsness and wait there for the great gathering of all the seabirds on their way to their breeding-places in the Northern Isles," they told him. When Tom reached Allfowlsness, the seabirds were gathering there in tens of thousands, quacking and clucking and gabbling and chattering among themselves. "These are the fellows to show you the way to the Shiny Wall," the kind petrels said to Tom.



8. The petrels spoke to some of the biggest seagulls, who are sometimes called molly-cocks. "Come, come, you lazy greedy things," they said. "This young gentleman is going to Mother Carey and wants to know the way to the Shiny Wall." "Greedy we may be, but lazy we are not," said one great fat molly-cock. "We'll help the little lad." So the mollies, who were jolly birds, took Tom the water baby with them. Laughing and joking, they headed towards the cold North, where they would find the Shiny Wall.



9. They flew northwards for many days, to places colder than Tom had ever known before. Being a water baby, he did not feel the cold, but was frightened when he saw packs of icebergs, bunched together in the sea, groaning and growling as they knocked into each other.



10. The good molly-cock carried Tom safely over the icebergs and set him down at the foot of the Shiny Wall. It was a great wall of ice and stretched as far as Tom could see—and so high that nobody could have climbed over. "Where is the gate?" asked Tom. "I don't see it." "There isn't one," said the molly-cock.

11. "No gate?" gasped Tom in surprise. "What am I to do then? I must get to the other side of the Shiny Wall to find Mother Carey." "Then you must dive and swim under the great Shiny Wall, if you have the courage," said the molly-cock. "I have not come this far to be turned back now," said Tom, very bravely.

Will Tom get past the great Shiny Wall? More of this lovely story next week.



1. In Western India the farmers grow wheat. The ground, baked hard by the sun, is hard to plough and the farmer grows only enough to feed his family.



2. In Japan, people keep silkworms. They feed them on mulberry leaves and when they have spun cocoons of silk threads, these are used for material.

Farming is not only the growing of vegetables and grain. Many other things are 'farmed' in parts of our World. This week we show you some of them in :—

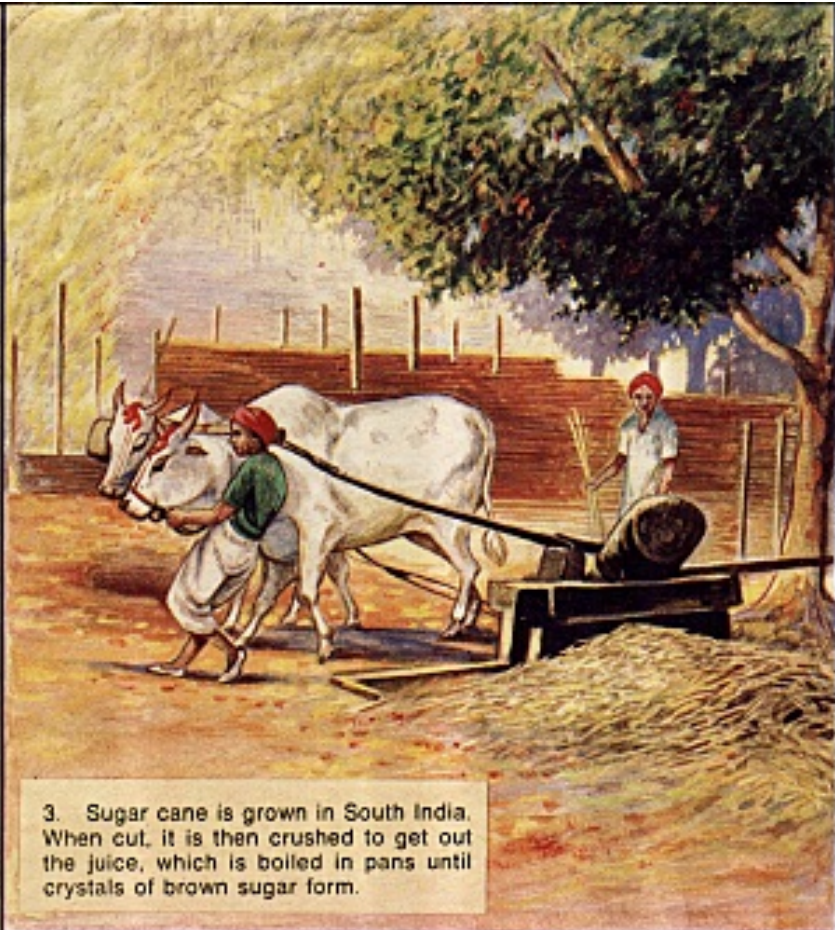
All Sorts of



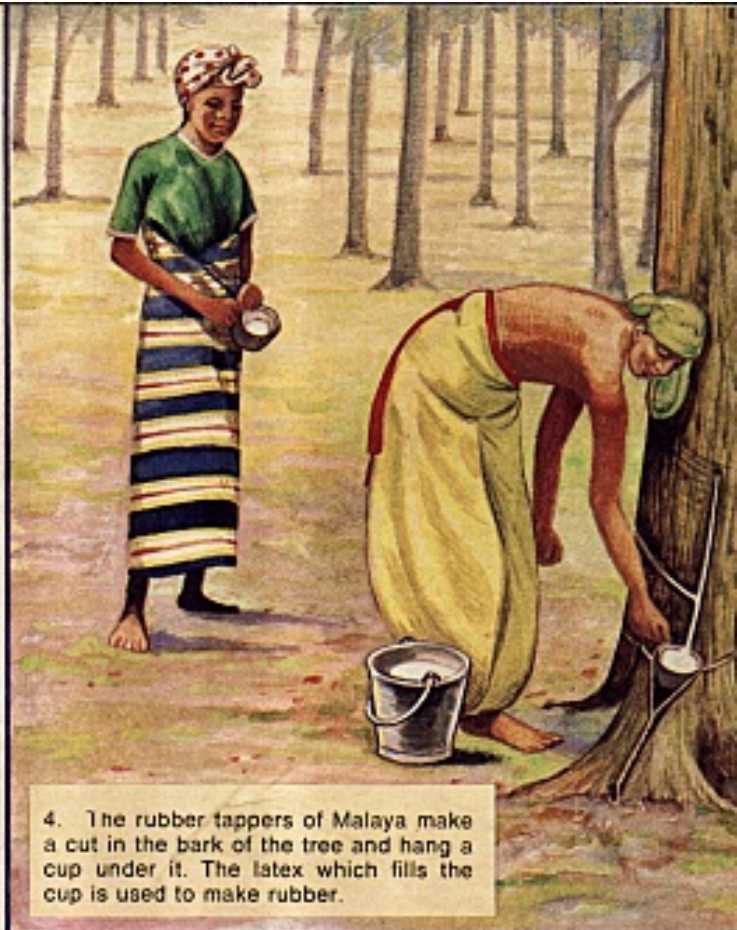
5. Many tea bushes grow in Ceylon. The leaves are picked and taken to the factory, where they are dried and processed to make tea to drink.



6. Hemp, a grass-like plant which grows in Manila, is used to make twine, cords and nets. In Europe it is used for sacks, sailcloth and canvas.



3. Sugar cane is grown in South India. When cut, it is then crushed to get out the juice, which is boiled in pans until crystals of brown sugar form.

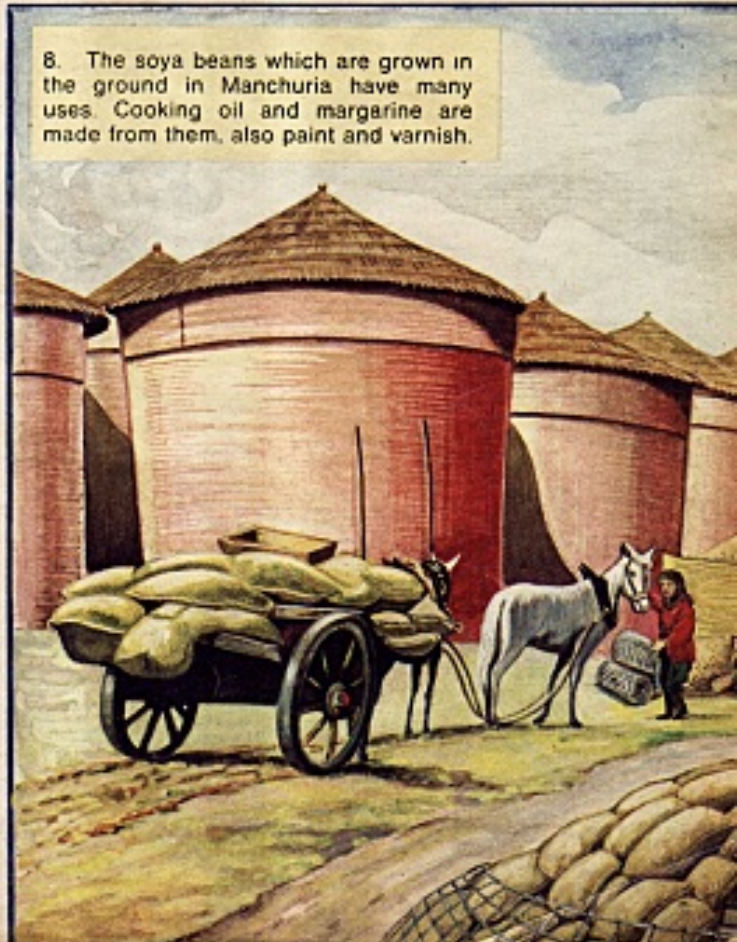


4. The rubber tappers of Malaya make a cut in the bark of the tree and hang a cup under it. The latex which fills the cup is used to make rubber.

Farming in Asia



7. A lot of rice is grown in Burma and China. Rice needs plenty of water around its roots, so the farmers plant the seedlings in flooded fields.



8. The soya beans which are grown in the ground in Manchuria have many uses. Cooking oil and margarine are made from them, also paint and varnish.



BRER RABBIT

The Strawberries that never were . . . by Barbara Hayes.

DO you like strawberries? Brer Rabbit does—and so do most other people, too. Certainly Brer Wolf and Brer Fox and Brer Bear do.

Now Brer Wolf and Brer Fox and Brer Bear knew what a clever little chap Brer Rabbit was, so when strawberry time came around, they said to themselves:

"If anyone knows where to find strawberries, it is Brer Rabbit. We will take turns in watching him and if we see him coming home with strawberry stains on his whiskers, we will make him tell us where the strawberries are growing."

So Brer Wolf and Brer Fox and Brer Bear took it in turns to sneak along behind Brer Rabbit and watch him everywhere he went.

Well, all that made Brer Rabbit feel mighty uncomfortable, I can tell you, mighty uncomfortable indeed.

And, of course, he knew *why* the other animals were following him. It being the strawberry season, he knew they were after strawberries.

But you have to be up early in the morning to catch Brer Rabbit, and soon he had thought of a plan to trick those three naughty scamps.

First, he had a word with his chum Brer Terrapin, then he borrowed a ladder from Mr. Man's farmyard and hid the ladder down by the river and *then* he set out for a country walk, as if he hadn't a care in the world.

Now Brer Fox was following him that morning.

Brer Rabbit strolled slowly along, until he was round a corner out of sight of Brer Fox, then he raced as hard as he could to a spot where strawberries did grow. But, instead of eating any, Brer Rabbit just put two in his pocket and raced back to the road again.

By the time Brer Fox came round the corner, Brer Rabbit was strolling along the road, just as if he had never left it.

Down toward the river strolled Brer Rabbit. Then, making sure that Brer Fox could see him, he took the ladder from its hiding place and stretched it across to a little island in the middle of the river.

Then Brer Rabbit, with Brer Fox still watching, walked across the ladder as if it were a bridge and went in amongst the

trees on the island.

Brer Fox stayed on the river bank listening.

And he heard: "Yum! Yum! Gulp! Glup! Chomp! Chomp!"

Then he saw Brer Rabbit coming back from the island with strawberry stains all over his whiskers and a big smile on his face.

At once, Brer Fox ran to fetch Brer Wolf and Brer Bear.

"I have found where Brer Rabbit gets his strawberries," he said. "It's on an island in the river."

So Brer Bear and Brer Wolf came rushing and, with Brer Fox, they ran across the ladder on to the island in the middle of the river.

Well, their feet had no sooner touched the island than Brer Terrapin poked his head out of the river and said:

"Howdy, folks. Do you mind if I borrow this ladder for a while?"

"Borrow it for as long as you like," laughed Brer Fox and Brer Wolf and Brer Bear. "We shall be busy on this island for hours eating all the strawberries."

So Brer Terrapin went off with the ladder and kept it all the rest of that day and all night as well.

At first Brer Wolf and Brer Bear and Brer Fox didn't mind. They raced to and fro across the island, looking for strawberries, but of course they didn't find any. There weren't any there.

It was just a trick to trap them on the island.

In the meantime, Brer Rabbit and his family had been up at the real strawberry field eating lovely strawberries for hours. On the way home, when their little tummies were fat with strawberries and their whiskers were pink with strawberry stains, they walked along the river bank near the island.

Brer Fox saw them and called out: "Where are the strawberries you said were on this island?"

"I didn't say there were any strawberries on the island," grinned Brer Rabbit. "I came off the island with strawberry stains on my whiskers but that doesn't mean there are strawberries there."

"What about the ladder then?" asked Brer Bear. "Brer Terrapin took it away and we don't know when he's bringing it back."

"Well, it's all your own fault for lending it to him," said Brer Rabbit.

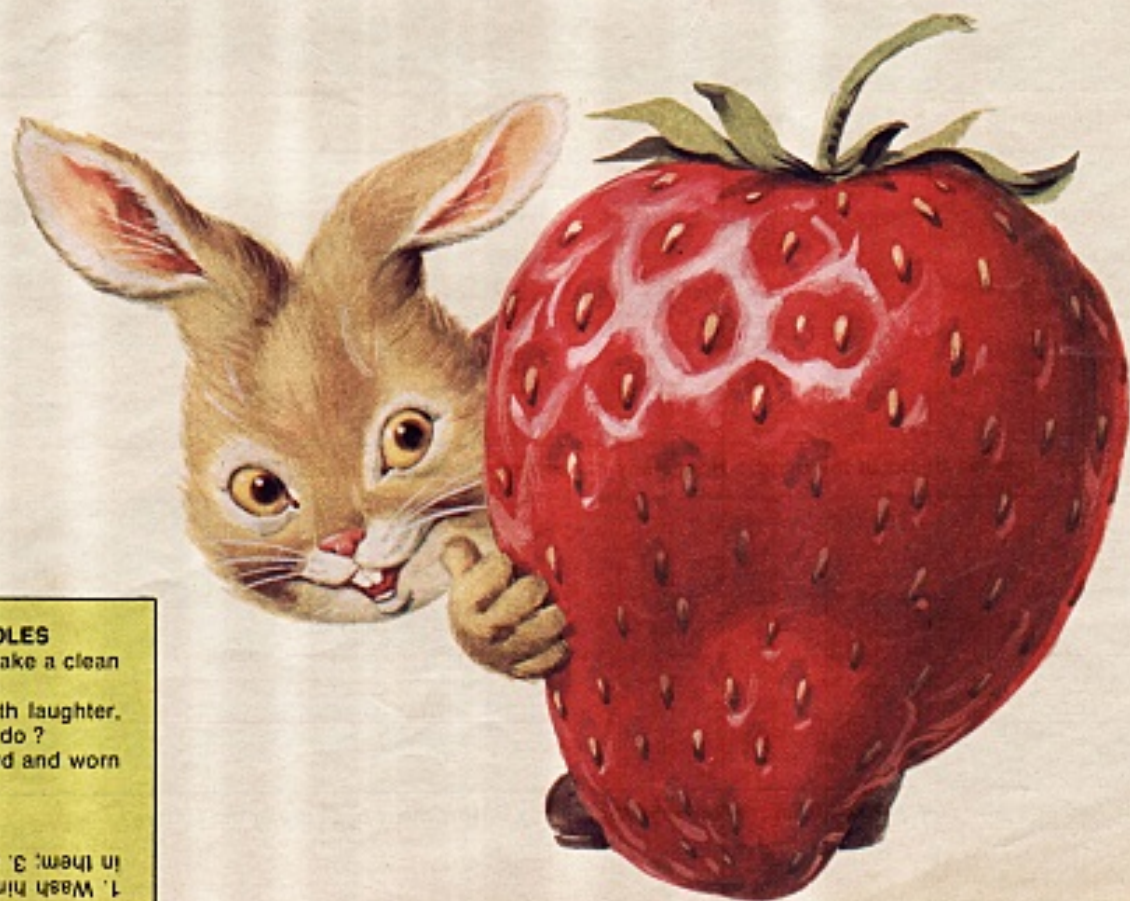
And Brer Rabbit and his family laughed and laughed and laughed.

And the next day, when Brer Terrapin brought back the ladder and Brer Bear and Brer Wolf and Brer Fox were able to hobble off the island, stiff and freezing after their cold night, they couldn't even be cross with Brer Terrapin.

After all, they had said he could take the ladder.

Naughty Brer Rabbit!

There will be another Brer Rabbit story to chuckle at next week.



BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. What is the best way to make a clean sweep?
2. If you split your sides with laughter, what is the best thing to do?
3. What is bought by the yard and worn by the foot?

Answers:

1. Wash him; 2. Run till you get a stitch in them; 3. A carpet.

Fun With Numbers

Here are five pictures . Try to answer the question under each picture and have fun learning to count.



A. Old Macdonald had a farm, and on that farm there were some pigs. How many?



B. Each pig had 2 piglets. How many pigs and piglets are there?



C. Old Macdonald also had some geese. How many are waddling to the pond?



D. The geese join the ducks in the pond. How many ducks and geese altogether?



E. The farmer's wife comes back from market with some hens. How many hens are in the picture?

Well, Fancy That!



1. **Little Longlegs.** A baby horse is called a foal and its mother is a mare. If you have ever seen a young foal scampering around a field, you may have been surprised to see that it has legs about the same length as its mother's. This is Nature's way of protecting the foal if danger threatens, for with its long legs it can run and keep up with its mother. Horses which roam wild need this protection in case they are attacked by other animals.



2. **Off to school—on stilts!** This sort of thing can happen in a country like Holland, when heavy rain floods pathways across fields. To get to school without getting their feet wet, some children have to use stilts—and they are very careful not to fall off!



3. **Your funny bone.** If you knock your elbow in a certain way you may get a strange feeling. People say you have knocked your "funny" bone—but the proper name for this bone is humerus. This sounds like "humorous", so you can see how "humorous" bone became "funny" bone.



4. **Marathon.** The Marathon race was named after the effort of a Greek runner, who ran from a place called Marathon to Athens, just over 26 miles, with news of a Greek victory—and then dropped dead.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and answer the questions about it.

Signs of the Zodiac

ARIES

(March 21st — April 20th)

ARIES, the ram with the golden fleece, is the Zodiac sign which affects those with a birthday falling between March 21st and April 20th. It is indicated by a sign suggesting a ram's head with curved horns, and this is the story about it:

King Athamas married Nephele and had two children, Phrixus and Helle. Later he divorced her and married Hera, who was very jealous of the children. She persuaded a wise man to declare that the only way to stop a terrible plague was to kill Phrixus and Helle.

To save them Nephele put them on the back of a magic ram, which flew with them over the sea. But Helle lost her hold on the fleece and was drowned at a spot which we now call the Hellespont.

The ram carried Phrixus to safety, and its golden fleece was hung on a tree-branch in a place called Colchis. The god Zeus made the ram immortal by placing it in the heavens as a constellation.

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The Fisherboy and the Genie



1. There was once a fisherboy, who found a strange-looking bottle as he was walking along the sea-shore one day. Puzzled, he decided to pull out the cork to see what it contained. Now inside the bottle was a genie. He had been imprisoned there for so long, that he had forgotten how he had got there.



2. A genie shut in a bottle usually becomes the slave of the person who releases him, but this genie was different. He puffed himself up to his full height and shouted to the terrified fisherboy, "You have released me from my prison, so now I am your master. You must obey my commands."



3. "Near here lives a beautiful princess," roared the genie. "You must steal her heart and bring it back to me." "Why do you ask that?" the fisherboy demanded, but the genie only glared at him angrily and roared, "Do not question my orders. Go, and see that you do what I command." The boy set off.



4. The fisherboy had no intention of obeying the cruel genie and when he reached the palace where the princess lived, he climbed in through the window of her room and told her all that had happened. "I have come to warn you about the genie, not to steal your heart," he told her. "Do not be afraid."



5. The princess was very pleased that the fisherboy was risking the wrath of the cruel genie to save her and she privately thought he was very handsome. Together, they planned a trick to defeat the genie and free the fisherboy from his power. The princess took out a heart-shaped brooch, which she wore often. "Put this in the genie's bottle," she said.



6. They both thought that the genie would think the brooch was the princess's heart and dive into the bottle to get it. The fisherboy could then put the cork in the bottle and imprison the genie once more. However, when the fisherboy arrived back at the seashore, the genie snatched the brooch from his hand before he could reach the bottle. "A brooch," he yelled.



7. "We will go to the princess together," roared the genie. The princess looked at him calmly. "I'm afraid you cannot have my heart. I lost it this morning," she said. Seeing that this was true, the genie gave a howl and rushed back into the bottle.



8. "So you've lost your heart," said the fisherboy. "Yes—to you!" smiled the princess. "Only someone very brave would have tried to protect me from the genie." "Then you must have my heart, in return," said the fisherboy and the princess was delighted.



BEAUTIFUL PICTURES

"Mary had a little lamb—its fleece was white as snow. And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go." Perhaps you know the rest of the famous nursery rhyme—how the lamb followed Mary to school one day and surprised the teacher and all the other pupils. If you had a lovely little white lamb, you

would like it to follow you everywhere, wouldn't you? Although this week's *Once Upon A Time* beautiful picture is a colour photograph and not a painting, we are sure you will enjoy looking at it. And if you decide to cut it out it would look splendid on the wall of your bedroom or stuck into a scrapbook.

The Island of Majorca



Have you ever been to Majorca for a holiday? It is a lovely island with many wonderful beaches to play on and a warm sea to swim in. Majorca is Spanish and its flag is, of course, the flag of Spain. The map on the left shows you where the island is, in the Mediterranean Sea off the mainland of Spain. To get to know the places on Majorca, take a bicycle ride through the maze from the capital, Palma, to Santany, Manacor, Arta, La Puebla, Solier and back to Palma—but be careful not to cross a line.



THE FLAG OF SPAIN



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The Snow Queen party . . . by Barbara Hayes.

STEPHANIE, the town mouse, was feeling rather down in the dumps. And when Stephanie was down in the dumps, she made sure that everyone round her had to be down in the dumps too.

"Nigel!" she snapped at her boyfriend. "You're stupid!"

"Why?" gasped poor Nigel, blinking at her. "I haven't done anything!"

"Well, that's why you're stupid, because you haven't done anything!" snapped Stephanie. "Anyone with any brains at all would have seen that I need something gay to happen to cheer me up."

So good-natured Nigel, who always tried to help, sat down at the piano and played a jolly tune.

"You blockhead!" shouted Stephanie. "Now all you're doing is giving me a headache as well as pushing me further down into the dumps than ever."

And then, just to be as unkind as she could, Stephanie peered at Nigel and said, "And what's more, you're getting fat!"

Telling someone that they were getting fat was the rudest thing Stephanie could ever think of saying.

But then Nigel, who was always nice, even when people were nasty to him, had one of his clever ideas.

"I know what will cheer you up, old girl," he said.

And Stephanie, who usually told Nigel off when he called her "old girl", forgot to do it this time, because she wanted to hear his idea.

"What will cheer me up?" she asked.

"I will go out and buy you the most beautiful dress in town," smiled Nigel.

And for the first time in ages, Stephanie smiled too.

"What a marvellous idea," she said.

Stephanie loved wearing grand clothes.

"Come on, let's go out at once,"

laughed Stephanie putting on her outdoor coat.

And then, because she was feeling in a good mood again, she whispered to Nigel, "And you're not getting fat after all, it must just have been the way you were sitting that made you look a bit tubby."

But, of course, all the way to the dress shop, Stephanie's little brain kept working and working away.

"It's no use having the best dress in town if no one else sees me in it," she thought. "What I need is a party to wear the dress at."

Then she thought on, "But I haven't been invited to any parties for a while."

So then she thought, "The only thing is for Nigel and me to give our own party."

But then she thought, "Suppose someone goes to the next town and buys an even better dress than mine? That would spoil the whole thing for me."

So then she thought again, "I must think of some way of writing the invitations so that it is clear to everyone that their dresses must be pretty, but not extra, extra nice, as mine will be."

Well that was rather a difficult problem.

After all, even Stephanie couldn't very well say in the invitation: "You mustn't come in a dress as nice as mine, or I shall hate you."

I mean, what would you think if you were sent a party invitation like that?

Then in the end Stephanie thought of a way.

"Nigel," she said, "you are going to give a fancy dress party!"

"Am I?" said Nigel. "It's the first I've heard of it."

"Well, you are, so stop arguing!" snapped Stephanie, which was rather unfair, because Nigel hadn't been arguing at all.

"We will say that it is a Snow Queen fancy dress party," went on Stephanie

happily. "And we will say that I am going to be the Snow Queen and that everyone else will be attendants or just ordinary guests. And you must arrange for a sledge to pull me into the town square and—oh yes—have the town square all lit up by torches—and as I am the Snow Queen, everyone will know that I must wear the best dress and they must wear ordinary dresses and I will arrive looking marvellous and then we will all go in and have a wonderful party with lots of food."

So that is what happened, and in the picture opposite you can see Stephanie and Nigel arriving at the party.

Stephanie enjoyed herself and was happy for weeks afterwards just thinking about it.

And everyone else enjoyed it because of the lovely food and jolly party and because they hadn't had to spend a lot of money buying grand new dresses.

So it's really lucky there are people like Stephanie about.

It makes things lively for the rest of us.

There will be another mouse story next week in *Once Upon A Time*.

Here are the questions from the story about the Zodiac sign of Aries on page 10. See how many you can answer before turning back to see if you were right:

1. What was the name of the King who had two children, Phrixus and Helle?
2. What is the spot called where the girl fell off the ram into the sea?
3. Who was the wicked woman who wanted the children killed?
4. Where did the golden fleece hang on a tree-branch?

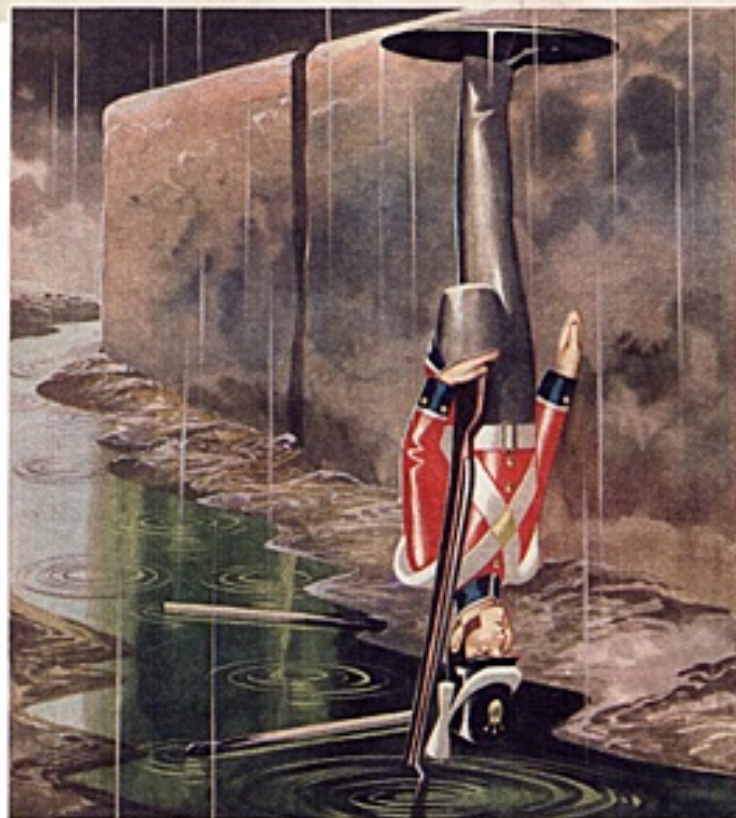


The Tin Soldier



1. A gust of wind had blown the little tin soldier off a window-ledge and he had fallen to the pavement, three storeys below. He landed head-first and the point of the bayonet on his gun stuck firmly between two paving-stones. The poor little soldier was so tightly wedged that he could not move an inch.

2. The little boy who owned the soldiers came down with a servant girl, to look for him, but although they searched and searched and almost trod on the soldier, they did not see him. If he had called out, "Here I am!" they would have seen him, but he thought it would not be right for a soldier to call for help.



3. After a time, the little boy and the servant girl went away, leaving the soldier on the pavement, wondering whether his sad plight was the fault of the Jack-in-a-box, or just an unlucky gust of wind. Just then it began to rain. The rain fell faster and faster until it had soon turned into a regular downpour.



4. The rain fell so fast that it soon filled all the gutters with small rivers of water. At last it slowed down and finally it stopped altogether. Not long after it had stopped, two boys came along the street. One of them happened to notice the tin soldier, stuck between the paving-stones, and bent to pick him up.



5. "Look at this," he cried. "I've found a tin soldier. Let's send him for a sail." They made a little boat out of newspaper, just big enough for the tin soldier, and when it was finished they put him in it. He stood there, straight and proud, holding his musket stiffly over his shoulder, and never moving at all.



6. The boys launched the little paper boat in the gutter. There was a torrent of water flowing along it after all the rain and the little boat raced along very swiftly. The boys ran beside it, clapping their hands in delight. The little boat was tossed up and down and once it spun round suddenly, without any warning.



7. The tin soldier almost lost his balance, but somehow he managed to keep standing straight and still, never losing hold of his musket. Then the boat reached a place where the water ran down into a drain and the boat was carried down into the drain, too, before the boys could stop it. The soldier went with it.

8. Inside the drain, it was as dark as it had been in the tin soldier's box. "I wonder where I'm off to now?" he said to himself. "And I'm all on my own, too! If only the little dancer from the castle were here in the boat. I shouldn't care how dark it was, or where I went, if she were with me."

Next week in Once Upon A Time you will see what happens to the Tin Soldier.

FAMOUS NAMES

Interesting facts about people and places and things that happened.



1. **Don Quixote.** He was a comical Spanish knight in a famous book written by a man named Cervantes. Don Quixote (say it "kee-ho-tay") had many strange and amusing adventures on his travels. In one of them, he attacked some windmills with his lance because he thought they were fierce giants.



2. **The Church of the Sacred Family.** This great church, which is still not completed, stands in Barcelona, Spain. It was designed by a man named Gaudi. The façade is covered with strange sculptures and it is said to represent the dripping wax candles, which are placed at the altar.



3. **Alexander the Great.** King of the small country of Macedon, he first united all Greece under his rule and then set out to conquer the then known world. He built himself a great empire, but died of a fever in 323 B.C., when he was only thirty-three.



4. **The Stone Age.** Hundreds of thousands of years ago, men lived in caves. They hunted animals as their food and wore animal skins as clothes. Because their tools and weapons were made of wood and stone, this period is known as the Stone Age.